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**First Foreign Base on U.S. Soil****European Space Research Unit Plans  
Satellite Tracking Station in Alaska**

By Howard Simons

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PARIS, July 28—The first foreign base on United States territory—a satellite tracking station—is destined to be established in Alaska by the European Space Research Organization.

Informed sources here, where ESRO has its headquarters, said today that the establishment of the station has been agreed to in principle by the State Department and that the formal agreement is expected to be signed in the near future.

Though the United States has set up American bases in a host of countries around the world, this is thought to be the first time that a piece of American soil has been acquired for foreign purposes.

European space experts have not finally decided where in Alaska the base will be situated, though it is understood that Fairbanks is fa-

vored. The recent catastrophic earthquake in Alaska has not deterred ESRO from its plans, but the earthquake did delay a planned survey of the Anchorage area, which is also being considered.

ESRO is a 10-member West European organization designed to promote European space research and technology for peaceful purposes. Its main objective is to launch a series of scientific satellites made in Europe on rockets acquired either from the United States, individual European nations, or ESRO's sister organization, the European Launch Development Organization.

Just last week ESRO announced a "memorandum of understanding" between it and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration calling for NASA's help in launching ESRO's first two scientific satellites. ESRO is to provide the satellites and NASA will provide the rock-

ets and carry out the actual launchings, scheduled for 1967 and 1968.

Altogether, ESRO plans to launch about 400 sounding rockets, six small satellites, eight medium satellites, seven space probes and an orbiting astronomical observatory during its first eight years.

It is to track, control and communicate with these spacecraft that ESRO is establishing its own satellite tracking network. This satellite fence will extend from Alaska across the North Pole to the Shetland Island, Belgium and Italy and eventually will be linked to the French satellite tracking network, which will extend from Paris through Algeria, Upper Volta and the Congo to South Africa.

The key station will be in Alaska. It will be equipped to track European satellites, control their orbit and "talk" to the satellite.